

1858
To His Excellency John Hancock Esq. Captain General and
Commander in Chief of the Militia of Massachusetts
William Dornion, Adjutant General Inspector General
Respectfully Reports,



That the Militia of this Commonwealth continues to make great progress in the knowledge of Tactics, and a spirit of martial improvement has animated the citizens in almost every part of the State - Although there may be some exceptions to this general representation of prosperity, yet extraordinary exertions have been made in most of the Divisions through the year past to that effect.

First Division, County of Suffolk.

In this Division the Militia of Roxbury and Braintree yet remains in a state of derangement; that of Dorchester which composes the residue of the 4th Regiment is nearly in the same situation - the Resignations of the Officers of the last mentioned Town have been long since presented for acceptance; and it is thought they will not be willing to do any more duty while the rest of that Regiment is exempted. The other Regiments of the Division are generally in good order, and were Reviewed and Inspected the last year. No Returns have been made of the Independent Companies in Boston, nor of Johnsons and Warner Artillery; nor were either of them Inspected.

Second Division, Essex.

The Militia of Danvers, Beverly, Manchester and Middleton, which has been formed into two Regiments, labours under embarrassment by reason of the Rank of those Regiments being undetermined, and by reason of their not being authorised to elect their field Officers. The Militia of Sturtevant and Rowley, which is the 11th Regiment, has long been inactive and unorganized, and still continues in that situation. This Regiment has not been mustered for many years; but all the other Corps of Infantry, Cavalry, and Artillery, of that Division were Reviewed and Inspected the last season.

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Third Division, Middlesex.

Seven Companies of the first, and three Companies of the Third Regiments were exempted from duty for want of being commissioned. No Returns have been received of these, nor of Colders and Hickneys Artillery or Richardson's Horse. All the other Regiments and Corps of the Third Division were reviewed and Inspected in the fall, and were in good order.

Fourth Division, Hampshire.

The Military is very respectable in this Division. All the Regiments and Corps are in good order, and were reviewed and Inspected the last season.

Fifth Division, Plymouth, Bristol, Barnstable &c.

Colonel Cross Regiment of the first Brigade did no duty last year, the other three Regiments in that Brigade were, Inspected and, reviewed by the Brigadier. The second Brigade was Inspected by Regiments, but not reviewed. The third Brigade was mustered ^{for} the first time for many years past.

Sixth Division, York and Cumberland.

The fifth Regiment in the first Brigade was not mustered by reason of the death of the Colonel, and the Arrest of the Lieut. Colonel. All the other Regiments and Corps were reviewed and Inspected. This Division begins to make a formidable appearance.

Seventh Division, Worcester.

Five Companies of Colonel Stearns Regiment were not mustered for want of being commissioned. All the other Regiments and Corps, of Infantry, Cavalry and Artillery were reviewed and Inspected, and do honour to the Commonwealth.

Eighth Division, Lincoln, Hancock and Washington.

The five Regiments in the first Brigade have never been all mustered in one year; Commissioners and Pattees were not mustered the last season. The dispersed situation of the Militia in the three eastern Regiments which compose the second Brigade, makes it very difficult to assemble a whole Regiment together; duty is therefore done in that Brigade by Companies.

North Division, Berkshire.

The Militia in Berkshire is very flourishing; the Citizens take pride in performing their duty, and therefore are easily governed when in the field - they are however, yet somewhat deficient in Arms. All the Regiments and Corps were reviewed and Inspected the last fall.

The Adjutant General has the honor herewith to present to Your Excellency a General Abstract of the Militia, as collected from the Returns received at his Office for the year past. It is not so perfect as he wishes it was, owing to the neglect of many Officers with regard to that part of their duty - The Adjutant General hopes Your Excellency will notice that neglect in General Orders, that it may be corrected in future. (He takes the liberty to mention to Your Excellency, that from various information, Brigade Masters have been productive of discouragements and uneasiness to the Citizens, and that very little benefit has been derived from them - if Your Excellency shall be of that opinion, perhaps you may disapprove of them hereafter.)

All which he submits to Your Excellency, and is with the highest respect

Your Excellency most obedient and

Very humble servant

William Dorrison

Adjutant General & Insp.^r General

To His Excellency John Hancock Esq^r

Captain General and Commander in Chief
of the Militia of Massachusetts

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Adjutant Gen^l
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the Militia in
the Commonwealth
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His Excellency John Hancock Esq.
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of the Militia of Massachusetts

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